March 15, 2020

COVID-19 email communication for Virtua Affiliated Clinicians

Change in Virtua Inpatient Visiting Policy Effective Monday, March 16, 2020

- Effective on 3/16, Virtua **will implement a no-visitation/no-access policy for all inpatient locations**, with limited exceptions for

  - terminally ill patients

  - laboring mothers

  - neonatal intensive care units

  - pediatric patients

  - those serving as caregivers for patients undergoing same-day surgeries and procedures

  The fully policy is available here [digital411 link]

PPE Supply Issues for Private Practices

In Virtua's interactions with the local officials, we have been advised to communicate the following to private physician practices experiencing PPE shortages and are unable to obtain this equipment through your normal supply chain:

1) document the type and number of items required (2 boxes isolation masks, 4 boxes large gloves, etc)
2) provide documentation from normal supply chain (backorder notice, out of stock notice, etc)
3) send a request to **both** the county health department as well as the county OEM asking them to submit a request to the state for supplies once stockpiles become available.

- County Health Department contacts can be found at:
  https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory?searchType=standard&lhd-state=NJ#card-filter

- County Offices of Emergency Management can be found at: http://ready.nj.gov/about-us/county-coordinators.shtml

A sample communication template is attached. Please customize the template to reflect the needs of your practice. When you send the email requests, keep a copy of your communications, including date and time sent.

Updated Virtua Triage Protocol

Based on the latest information coming from the CDC, combined with local epidemiological trends, Virtua has updated its recommended triage protocol for symptomatic patients **[hyperlink to digital 411].** This protocol will be reviewed on Monday's webinar at 6pm.

Other Recommended Resources/Readings

CDC Healthcare Provider Website

NYTimes Flattening the Curve